



UTILITY and TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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The National-Award-Winning Construction Association



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December 7, 2010

Kristi Izzo, Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center, Suite 801
Newark, NJ 07102

RE: Distribution System Improvement Charges – Docket No. WO10090655

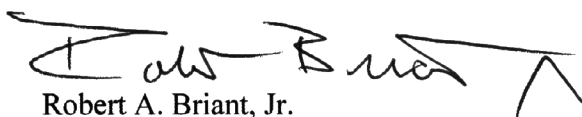
On behalf of the more than 1,000 member firms of the Utility and Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey, I write to you today in support of the implementation of a distribution system improvement charge (DSIC) for water and wastewater utilities.

Our state's water infrastructure is crumbling and our needs continue to grow at an exponential rate. Much of the underground infrastructure serving our residents is more than 100 years old and in poor condition. In fact, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has estimated our state's water infrastructure needs to be in excess of \$8 billion. Having a "DSC" in place has helped other states remain ahead of the curve, and will go a long way to addressing the extraordinary challenges that we face here in New Jersey.

A "DSC" represents an important tool for water and wastewater utilities so that they may be proactive in rehabilitating their facilities. The converse, waiting until critical infrastructure fails, is much more costly to ratepayers, is more difficult to fix, and leads to service disruptions. It is also important to realize that the economic impact and public benefit will be considerable. Construction projects funded by this charge will create thousands of jobs, and the facilities will serve the public for decades to come. New Jersey's economy will significantly benefit from the timely passage of this measure.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and encourage the Board's approval of this sensible and timely measure.

Very Truly Yours,


Robert A. Briant, Jr.
CEO

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Clean Water Construction Coalition